

The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1913.

A STATEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF VIRGINIA.

With its usual fine disregard for mere facts, the Roanoke Times declares that the Richmond Times-Dispatch has backed down from Editor Land's proposed investigation of the plunderbund, and the power of the Virginia officeholders over the Legislature.

Pray, when has The Times-Dispatch backed down? Where has it ceased from its warfare against combinations of fee officeholders to prevent a fair expression of popular will? Or, in what issue has it withdrawn its strictures against improper lobbying? We do not ask the Roanoke Times why it makes these charges, because that paper has been so long and so notoriously above all rules of reason and fairness that to demand such an explanation from it would be as futile as it would be ridiculous.

The Roanoke Times is one of the papers that has peep-pooled the idea of an investigation, and has laughed merrily at the suggestion that the Legislature of 1914 hold a post mortem over the Legislature of 1912.

In this, at least, the Roanoke Times recognizes that what is done is done. No investigation to-day can change the fact that the West bill was defeated or make alive the bill for traveling auditors, as to which measure Speaker Byrd said in an address before the Virginia State Bar Association last August.

When the law providing for a State accountant was drawn, it contained provisions for the installment of a uniform system of bookkeeping for every collecting and disbursing officer in the State. It also provided for a systematic inspection of the accounts of such officers. Certain influences in the General Assembly were powerful enough to beat the bill the first time it was offered and to emasculate it the second time.

These facts are open and well known. They have filtered even as far as Roanoke. They have not been blinked in Danville. Their effect is felt on the shores of the Rappahannock and in the foothills of the Alleghenies.

If the Legislature, upon consideration, thinks it wise to expend the time and money and call the witnesses and take the evidence necessary to fully investigate these statements, The Times-Dispatch will be glad to appear and assist the investigating committee with every means in its power.

If such an investigation be held The Times-Dispatch will state to the committee then, as it states to the public of Virginia now, that it regrets the intemperate language made use of in an article appearing in this paper on June 3, 1913.

The general intent of that article was to declare that fee officeholders and lobbyists and special interests had brought such pressure to bear on the members of the Legislature as to defeat the will of the people and prevent the enactment of laws demanded by the State at large, and to secure the passage of acts designed to benefit individuals at the expense of the public.

This statement was couched in language that was unnecessarily harsh, offensive and severe. Such language should not have been used, and The Times-Dispatch regrets its appearance in these columns.

And this article would have later been modified had it not been for the fact that the article itself was made the immediate cause for a personal attack upon the individual owners of The Times-Dispatch.

Even at this late day The Times-Dispatch feels that it should, at all costs, make a modification and withdrawal of language that, under other conditions, it would have made long ago. This we do. But we say to the Roanoke Times that neither it nor any one else has authority to draw from this statement any implication that we have modified or will change our attitude of unyielding opposition to the abuses of lobbying by individuals or organized bodies of citizens or officials.

The Raleigh News and Observer has received reports to the effect that the Virginia State Fair is one of "exceptional interest and value," and that "there will be many from North Carolina who will be in Richmond this week, and the forecast is that they will find a State Fair full of entertainment and amusement, as well as full of exhibits and displays of real value. No Virginia State Fair could be complete without the good company and fine presence of our neighbor Tarheels."

Dr. McConell, president of the State Normal School for Women at Bedford, "at the beginning of his discourse last Sunday morning at the Christian Church, which was his first appearance before a local congregation, made the statement that he was not a preacher, and, therefore, would not preach; but that he did have an ambition to make a speech on the occasion of being asked by Mr. Stump to address the congregation." At any rate, the good doctor was a Stump speaker.

King Gustaf of Sweden is the guest of Count Frijs-Frijsborg, of Denmark, and His Majesty will doubtless be willing to let his host call him "Gus" if his host is willing to be called "Bill" for short.

PROGRESSIVES AID DEMOCRATS.

The Colonel still stands at Armageddon, and the Democrats rejoice; yea, even more than the Progressive Republicans themselves.

"We shall enter as a national party upon another national campaign," said Mr. Roosevelt, Friday night, at the gathering of the Progressive clans in New York upon the eve of his departure for South America. Most emphatically he asserted that, "we will never yield the ground we have taken or flinch from the fight to which we are pledged."

No empty declaration that, for the campaign committee of the Progressive party announces that it will nominate candidates for the national House of Representatives in every district in 1914. There is to be a Bull Moose on every congressional battleground, even if he does get knocked into a cocked hat.

If there was anything that Democracy desired, it was that the third-party movement would not slump before the next congressional election, and now come the Progressives a year in advance with the assurance that they will be in the running. Nothing is a surer guarantee of Democratic control of the next House, for in so many doubtful districts the margin between the two elder parties is so slim that very little Progressive assistance will assure Democratic success.

As organized in April, the House of Representatives consisted of 299 Democrats, 127 Republicans, 7 Progressive-Republicans, 9 Progressives and 1 Independent. Ninety-one votes would be needed to re-establish Republican control.

It has been the rule of the last generation that a Democratic President could not be accompanied by a Democratic House throughout his term, and so, in view of the ambitious program of the administration, it is highly important that Democratic control shall endure for the four-year period. With a Republican House majority, the President's hands would be tied. Conversely, if the Democratic party can retain its ascendancy in the House, it can place itself in a position to maintain itself in power indefinitely. If the Progressives adhere to their determination, nothing short of a political miracle can prevent Democratic retention of the House of Representatives.

IS MASSACHUSETTS PROUDER?

Farmhouses, just ancient farmhouses, are now being eagerly bought up for preservation by the patriotic societies of Massachusetts. Home-stands that have no special historical association in this way are to be saved for generations. The Historical Society at Marblehead, for example, has just bought the mortgage on a fine old mansion, and venerable houses have been secured and refitted in Salem, Quincy, Cambridge and other towns in the Old Bay State. The Boston Herald is regretful that a large number of such buildings, which are "among New England's choicest possessions," should not be rescued from ruin and restored, and urge a wide campaign in behalf of the seventeenth and eighteenth century houses as a class. Massachusetts has so far progressed in the preservation of her antiquities that practically every spot of historic connection with the Colonial and Revolutionary periods has been marked by stone or bronze entablature and every historic building preserved. So attention is now being directed even to the old unhistoric houses.

Despite the very excellent endeavors of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, there are in the Old Dominion many historic sites unmarked and many historic edifices falling into decay. In some instances the county authorities having charge of old official buildings tend to display an unpatriotic attitude, as is the case just now on the Eastern Shore at Eastville, where the old courthouse, built in 1650, and the clerk's office and debtors' prison, of greater ages, are in danger of destruction. These monuments, not alone of Virginia, but also of American history, have stood for almost two and a quarter centuries, but the supervisors of Northampton, it is rumored, are about to destroy them merely to improve the site of a proposed Confederate shaft, because the ancient structures would somewhat obstruct the view of the new memorial.

The Eastern Shore branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities wishes these historic buildings to be committed to its care, promising in that event to restore them and keep them in the best order. It wants some better method of preservation for the old county archives, which are thought to be the oldest continuous set of county records in the United States. Yet it is said that they are "piled in dry goods boxes on the stone blocked floor of the old clerk's office, and some are kept in an unfastened mahogany bookcase," while "there is not a pane of glass in the windows of this building, and until recently it had no lock."

What have the people of the Eastern Shore to say about this matter? Will they permit the contemplated destruction of antiquities so hallowed by association with American beginnings?

If the Englishman who has just married the best-looking girl in America doesn't believe that he's been deceived, just let him come and take a little walk down Richmond streets.

"Jeh gibbel!" bellowed the hippo to the kirkak-ohk in African jungles when he read in the morning paper that the celebrated faunal naturalist, Iwana Timbo, has sailed to South America.

Now we are to have Father's Day to prevent the head of the family from suffering total eclipse. Father's real day is about the first of every month.

Can psychologists explain how the last fly of summer always knows when a man is trying to take a nap?

Right now it seems to be The United States of Baseball.

NO NEW STATION FOR GUESTS.

The need for better railroad station facilities in Richmond is never so evident as at this rush season of the year. When the real test of our receiving terminals comes, their lamentable shortcomings are driven home. All our hospitality is discounted by the confusion and inconvenience to which our autumn guests are subjected. The people of Richmond can worry along with inadequate accommodations; but the people of Richmond should be ashamed to welcome strangers in the poor fashion made necessary by small and crowded stations. These visitors are the people who make both Richmond and the railroads possible. We should be ashamed not to prepare a more beautiful and comfortable doorway through which they might enter the city.

Richmond and the railroads do not seem to consider these facts. As soon as station improvement is mentioned each small and selfish interest puts its own pleasure and profit above all general considerations. We have never seen a broad, clear statement of the interest that all of Richmond and all of Virginia have in better stations. The Broad Street merchants want this. The Main Street business men want that. The railroads want the other. So far, nobody seems to have gotten anything. And the traveler bears the burden.

During the fair season, during the gathering of the Legislature, in fact, throughout the year, the people of Virginia and the Carolinas have a very deep and real interest in our station problem. The Chamber of Commerce realizes this, and has done what it could to overcome petty difficulties and local prejudices and desires. It has not been able to get the divergent factions together, and we cannot hold out any hope to visitors of being received in better style next year.

The Times-Dispatch trusts that sooner or later a broad, sane and constructive view of this terminal question will be taken. Some plan that will adjust the interests of the city, of the tributary territory and of the railroads ought to be formulated and put through. It will surely be a compromise, but it will also be an accomplished fact, not mere talk.

THE PRISON PROBLEM.

The report of what Thomas Mott Osborne learned in his week in a New York State prison comes at a good time in Richmond. Counselman Vonderlehr's plan for the walling-in of Shockoe Creek suggests what may be done to make the life of our city prisoners more profitable to themselves and the community. It emphasizes that modern penology does not aim at stamping the individuality out of a criminal, but of reforming him to make him a better element of society on his release. This reform is best accomplished by hard work under fairly normal conditions.

There are obvious objections to the use of our city unfortunates for doing the work proposed. For one thing, the reconstruction of Shockoe Creek should be done in large sections, and not by yearly fragments. We had better expend from \$100,000 to \$200,000 at a time and get the work done right than to fritter away small sums in patchwork. Moreover, Richmond cannot afford to wait twenty years to see this necessary improvement completed. That is what the proposed plan implies with a yearly expenditure of \$25,000 on a \$500,000 task. Moreover, we do not think the city can do this work with its own forces. Richmond cannot afford to buy all the machinery and equipment needed to carry out this construction. It can better use private companies that are given large contracts.

Even so, however, the city prisoners could be used for much of the manual labor. The central idea of working the men, who are now fed in idleness, for the benefit of their families and the city is absolutely sound. It is an economic waste to support able-bodied men who do nothing. We prevent them from contributing to their families. We secure no return for their board and lodging. We remove from their lives the stimulating influence of hard toil in the open air. We had better put them at work on a municipal farm, and give some of the produce to their families, or to the upkeep of other city institutions.

Mr. Osborne says that the present system "is a frightful waste of human life and ingenuity." It does not make use of the possible means of reform. It does not encourage the development of the physical, mental and moral elements in the prisoner.

We have told again and again of the success in other cities of municipal farms. They are financial successes, and they are human successes. Mr. Vonderlehr's idea is sound and constructive. We should follow the suggestion, if not the precise plan.

Some of these imported Paris gowns must have been deposited.

Who wants popcorn for breakfast when he can get old Virginia corn-cakes or South Carolina hominy?

Christabel Pankhurst thinks her mother's visit to America will do much good. In England?

The fair and the world's series have put business on low speed.

We would like to ask Chief Werner how we are going to leave our money at home and bust loose at the fair too.

Portland, Oregon, gives the world a hint on municipal economy. The chauffeurs employed by the city are used as clerks when not actually driving their machines.

The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans must believe in trial marriage, judged by the number of times the papers have had them "wedded" here of late.

ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT

By ROY K. MOULTON.

According to Uncle Abner. A feller can't get into good society now unless he's got a six-cylinder car and kin dance the tango, and then, sometimes, the society he gets into ain't none too good.

They have got almost everything on the Chautauqua circuits nowadays exceptin' snake charmers. It always seems strange to me that when a war breaks out most of the married men are anxious to enlist and hurry to the front on the first train.

The only thing that kin be said in favor of the celluloid collar is that it is goin' out of style as fast as it kin. Evidently nothing is ever going to happen in this world which will entirely please George Bernard Shaw.

A poet never gets credit for havin' any business sense whether he has or not.

Beauty used to be only skin deep, but now it's skin deep and paint deep. Now that finger bowls are being abolished, Hank Tumms says it is time to do away with a lot of other foolish habercures. He says the next thing to go should be the fork.

Every kid's father used to just love to go to school.

It will git so after a while that the tires will cost more than the car.

Signs of the Times.

America consumes more sugar than any other country in the world. A lot of Americans are evidently trying to keep sweet under adverse circumstances.

Women in Sweden have been given the right to propose marriage, but can they support the young men in this manner to which the latter are accustomed?

Russia will try to curb the revolutionary spirit by introducing baseball. Anybody who wants to be an umpire in the Russian league is welcome to the job.

Baltimore man who had undergone 200 operations is dead at last. Perseverance is a great virtue.

Bryn Mawr is going to develop twenty perfect women, but are there that many perfect men in the country to marry them?

J. D. Rockefeller, Jr., tipped a Boston waiter 10 cents. Only the very rich can get away with that sort of stunt.

Any Mexican who can steal a horse can claim the title of general and lead an insurgent army.

Autumn. The leaves of the maples are turning. They're putting skid chains on the cars.

Some furniture father is burning. He don't bought hard coal thus far. The field with five pumpkins is yellow. There's a chill in the evening breeze; The apples are blushing and mellow, And dad has sluffed his B. V. D.'s.

The fall clothes for mother are coming. And sister's new suit is a peach. And brother Bill's glad rags are ordered.

His top coat's a scream and a screech. Poor father has dug till he's tired. His bank account is in arrears. His old overcoat he is wearing— The one he has worn seven years.

According to Uncle Abner. Anse Judson says he has never dared to tackle one of them club sandwiches down to the city for fear of getting his teeth full of slivers.

It is getting so nothing kin happen anywhere in the world from the development of a Madagascan missionary to an automobile accident in Saskatchewan without having to start another war between the United States and Japan.

It is getting so the cost of living kin go up with or without provocation. Most stubborn husband in the world. Nearly every feller has a fad. Amry Jones has one. He is a collector of unpaid telephone bills and this is one of the most disagreeable fads a young man kin have.

Hank Tumms says it don't make no difference if the corn crop in several states has failed. A feller can drink rye, can he?

There are a lot of fee seekers who feel just as bad about not bein' recognized as Huerta does.

Queries and Answers

Game Law. Will you print the game law for Henrico and the surrounding counties?

We regret that it would require too much space. You can get text of the law from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, in the Capitol.

An Address. Please give the address of the president of the National Republican League of America.

By the last publication we have, that of Mr. John Hays Hammond, Gloucester, Mass.

Mental. Which is easier to recall, the abstract or the concrete? Can you give an example which will be perfectly clear and simple?

To a vast majority of minds, the concrete. No one here troubles to remember which side of the street contains even numbers of houses and which odd. When he needs to remember, he recalls some house of his acquaintance, preferably his own residence, and that furnishing a concrete example. It is able to say, in the neighborhood, that even numbers lie on the north and west sides and odd numbers on the south and east.

"The Broken Halo." Is the author of "The Broken Halo," and whether it is a novel of value or not?

Edmond L. Barclay. As the book will not be circulated till the 15th of this month, it is doubtful whether you can now get any opinion of it that will be worth while. You cannot in any circumstances get an opinion from the Query Column about anything. We have none.

Abe Martin



Sometimes when we see a bride and groom, it's all we kin do 't keep from being drunk in the church 'n' askin' her why she didn't look around a little longer. Elderberry wine makes a fine fall gargle.

Arrested for Fighting. Charles Carrington, colored, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Officers Tinsley and Vaughan on the charge of fighting in the street. He is alleged to have engaged in a quarrel with several other negroes.

Holiday for Richmond Day. A general holiday will be observed on the Southside to-morrow, Richmond Day at the State Fair. Hastings Court, Part II, and the offices of Deputy Treasurer Brumbaugh will close for the day. Superintendent Lloyd of Manchester Station has asked the authorities at Washington to grant the station employees a half-holiday, and the request is expected to be granted. Hull Street cars will run through to the Fair Grounds on Richmond Day.

Personal and General. J. R. Hall, of East Twelfth Street, left yesterday for Norfolk, where his daughter, Dorothy, will join him in a few days.

Organize Church in Heights. About thirty Methodists of Woodland Heights organized a church at a meeting held on Sunday in the home of Rev. A. C. Berryman. A site for the new building has been purchased, and plans will be made shortly for the structure. Rev. Henry C. Pfeiffer, pastor of Central Methodist Church, was present at the meeting, and said he would co-operate with Mr. Berryman in making the venture a success. It is understood that Mr. Berryman will be the first pastor. A superintendent and other officers of the church will be elected at a meeting to be held at his home on Thursday night.

Funeral of Mrs. Harding. The funeral services of Mrs. Elizabeth C. Harding, sixty-three years old, widow of Edward Harding, a former resident of South Richmond, who died on Sunday afternoon in Norfolk, were held yesterday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock from the residence of Quincy Harding. Mrs. Harding was well known, having a number of friends on the Southside.

Porter Street Opened. Upper Porter Street, which has been closed for several weeks, while the smooth paving was being laid, was opened to traffic on Sunday. The thoroughfare is paved with asphalt blocks from Fourteenth Street to Cowardin Avenue, and presents an attractive appearance.

'Pike Half Finished. Work has been rushed rapidly on the Petersburg Pike, which is being macadamized from South Richmond to Petersburg, and more than half the job is completed. W. W. LaPrade, county engineer, said yesterday that the improvements were expected to be completed within the next two months.

Woman Fined for Drunkenness. Bertha Myers was fined \$10 in Police Court, Part II, yesterday on the charge of being drunk in the street. W. H. McKay, who was arrested for giving liquor to a minor, was fined \$10 by Justice Maurice. The woman gave her age as nineteen, but her father later testified that she was twenty-four years old.

In Police Court, Part II. The case of Taylor Sattling, a young Southsider, charged with assaulting Fletcher Hawthorne, will be heard before Justice Maurice this morning. William Bishop was fined \$5 in Police Court, Part II, yesterday on the charge of fighting in the street. Thomas West, his alleged opponent in the fight, was dismissed.

Owens to the condition of the defendant, the case of Dave Ford, colored, charged with feloniously cutting James Looker, also colored, was continued by Justice Maurice until October 14.

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WHEN DAD WAS A BOY.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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The Hay Ride.

NEWS OF SOUTH RICHMOND

DIES OF INJURIES

Unidentified Negro Was Struck by Richmond-Petersburg Car.

As the result of being struck by a Richmond and Petersburg electric car on Thursday an unidentified negro died late Saturday night in the Memorial Hospital. The body was turned over to an undertaking establishment for possible identification. The man's skull was fractured, and two limbs were broken. He died without regaining consciousness.

The accident occurred on the trestle near Falling Creek, where it is very hard to see an object until close upon it. The man was on his hands and knees, and although the motorcar says he made every effort to stop, his car knocked the negro over the trestle into the creek below.

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AGED WHITE MAN KILLED BY NEGRO

J. Will Bryant Meets Death During Sunday Evening Row.

Martinsville, Va., October 6.—J. Will Bryant, a white man, sixty years old, was shot and killed near Sanville, in the western part of Henry County, about 7 o'clock last night. The shooting occurred at the home of Bud Foster, near Sanville, and whiskey is said to have been at the bottom of the trouble. Henry Scott, a young mulatto, who did the shooting, is reported to have been trying to shoot another man in the crowd when he shot Bryant.

Bryant was taken to his home, but died before reaching there.

An inquest was held at Bassett today. The neighborhood in which the killing occurred is remote from the telephone, and particulars are hard to obtain.

CONGRESS ASKED TO INVESTIGATE

North Carolina Is Dissatisfied With Workings of Interstate Commerce Commission.

Raleigh, N. C., October 6.—The Senate today passed the House resolution by Justice memorializing Congress to investigate the operations of the long and short haul clause, and take from the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to grant exceptions to this clause.

Lillis, of Wake, to strike out a feature of the preamble, which was construed as a resolution on the Interstate Commerce Commission in declaring that the shippers of the State have "appeared in vain to the commission for relief." The resolution as it came from the House was passed by a big majority.

The House discussed at considerable length and finally passed without opposition, the joint resolution by Representative Sewell, of Lee County, calling for a joint committee of five, two Senators and three Representatives, to investigate the conduct of fire insurance companies in this State and report to